A VERY INSTRUCTIVE PAPER ON AN IM-PORTANT SUBJECT.

HYDROPHOBIA AS ONT OF THE RAREST DISEASES.

The present number of our Animal

Friends is published at the beginning of the "dag days." Hardly any phrase in the English language is more misleading or has done more cruel injury to man and beast than this, By the "dog days" people un-derstand the period of great heat, occurring chiefly in July and August, days" is at once set down as "mad. A frightened dog, cruelly pursued by thoughtless children with the cry "mad dog?" is regarded with terror and is often brutally killed. Any report of a case of rabies, however illfounded it may be, is at once communicated to the newspapers, and among hundreds of thousands of nervous people, sometimes, as we shall a human being is bitten by a dog, he is at once assumed to be in danger of hydrophobia, and he very often resorts to expedients of prevention or cure which are much more likely to induce a simulated hydrophobia than to prevent or cure the reality.

Now, the very first observation we have to make on this subject is that there are no such days in the year's calendar as "dog days." There are days on which and there is no kind of weather during which a dog is liable to rabies. Rabies is a rare disease at all seasons of the year, and there are no more cases of rabies in July or August than in December or January. It follows, therefore, that there is no more reason to dread our family friend the dog, in hot weather than in cold. and no more reason to dread hydro phobia from his bite at one time of the year than at another. The phrase "dog days" is a false and misleading phrase, which all human persons

thruse in the interest of human beings greatly and cruelly as dogs have been extensively and more cruelly afflicted by the terror of hydrophobia. The often cruely and fatal results.

during many years of travel he had by the fecturer while discussing these made diligent inquiry of the oldest surgical states." practitioners of cases of hydrophobia Physicians and philosophers per-which had fallen under their observa-feetly understand the effect of "extion. Many of them told him that pretrait attention" which has been they had never seen a case, and the the cause not only of individual dis- upon to talk less about it the number from friendly sources contain remarkresult of his own experience and in- cases, but of marvellous epidemics in quiry had been "about as fruitless as various parts of the world. Witness | would be greatly diminished, as they stances of shark bites," which he had cause of its supposed origin in the due to the fear of hydrophobia than this year (1894) admit seventy-two spent years in investigating. Dr. Bite of the tarantula, a species of his own experience. In Asia of his own experience of shark of his own experience of his own experience. In Asia of his own experience of shark of his own experience of his Minor and Constantinople, where painful sort, but it could be effectually ,ng a period of thirty years as one of I find that Dujardin-Beaumetz, a

RABIES & HYDROPHOBIA. parish dogs abound, one never hears cured by nothing but music. A the surgeons of hydrophobia. It is unknown in Bishop, who believed the whole thing pital, he has a Japan and Korea, where there are to be imaginary, allowed himself to of hydrophobis more dogs than any other country. be bitten by the tarantula and ment, and even In Germany it is seldom heard of; not a case has been reported in Berlin in delirious grotesquerie of the peasant." many years. In London, with five By and by, when people ceased to and a half million inhabitants, only think much about the tarantula, tarone case was reported in 1892, and of the eight thousand stray dogs which were captured not one showed symp- and again by the tarantula with no toms of rables. "The statistics of New York for thirty-five years (says Dr. Rosse) show nine years in which no death occurred, and two successive years in which there was not one." This statement, however, falls in which they suppose that dogs are in peculiar danger of rabies, and that human beings are therefore in peculiar have said. During the thirty years danger from the disease of hydrophobia, which is supposed to be communicated by the bite of a rabid dog. It consequence is that any dog which any happen to be suffering from any disease whatever during the "dog disease of hydrophobia. This experience of our society, which makes it a point o look into all reports of rabies and ydrophobia, is confirmed by the exians. Dr. Landon Carter Gray publiely stated before the New York Academy of Medicine that "there was not a neurologist in New York who through them spreads consternation Birdsall said that he had never seen a case of rables, but that he had seen cases of simulated hydrophobia from presently see, causing them to experience the very symptoms which are supposed to accompany hydrophobia. When it actually happens that drophobia showed no gross patholo-gical lesion." Dr. Charles W. Dul-les, of Philadelphia, examined seveny-eight cases of suppossed hydrophoola and pronounced the great majority of them to be utterly incredible and wholly sputious; and it is a remarkable fact that no one "has yet claimed the large money award offered by various kennel clubs and by several physicians to anyone producing a well authenticated case of hydrophobia in man or beast.'

SIMULATED RYDROPHOBIA.

on this subject, and yet it may be ad-

It is hardly necessary to say more

visable to do so, because the popular belief in hydrophobia amounts so nearly to a superstition that it can probably be surpressed by nothing but superabundant evidence. When we rend of cases of hydrophobia, what we have said may be sufficient to cast e discredit upon them, but when ought to avoid in the interest of the all the symptoms popularly supposed to be connected with that fell disease They ought equally to avoid the do netually occur, what is to be said the conclusion that "hydrophobia is against them? fiel by water and gives every sympmade to suffer from the general dread tom of hydrophobia, shall we say that of rabies, it is more than probable that all this horrible suffering does not exhuman beings have been even more ist? Surely not. And yet, those very symptoms, even when they are object of the present article is chiefly the product of a discased and supermost awful, may be, and often are, to remove, as far as possible, the per- excited imagination. When a hungry nicious and atterly unfounded terror which has produced such injurious and because nature supplies saliva not only to food, but the very thought of HYDROPHOBIA IS ONE OF THE BAREST food. Nothing is more curious than First of all, then, we undertake to show that genuine hydrophobia is one Mathew Woods, in an admirable pamof the rarest of all the diseases by phlet upon Mimetic Diseases, speaks which humanity is afflicted, and we of the familiar fact that "at the close might begin by saying that rabies, of many discourses delivered from canine disease from which hydropho | the chair of the practice of medicine, bia is supposed to be contracted, is the professor is privately consulted also one of the rarest diseases of the by students suffering from all the dog. Medical men of eminence have symptoms described, and this imitanot hesitated to say that there is no live peculiarity is not limited to such such disease; that no microbe of hy- ailments as disease of the heart, condrophybia has been found; and that sumption. Base 'ow's disease, gallwhat we call the microbe of hydro stone, cancer of the pancreas or apphobia is found even in the healthy dog, and therefore can give no assurance in diagnosis. In a paper motion and sensation in the right or read before the American Neurologi- left half the body-during a realistic cal Association, at Philadelphia, Dr. lecture on cerebral apoplexy; others Irving C. Rosse, F. R. G. S., did seized with violent pain in the knee not hesitate to speak of hydrophobia during an elucidation of the sympas a purely imaginary disease, with torns and pathology of Pott's disease no more realty to rest upon than the while there are reports of students imaginary witchcraft which was acquiring all the subjective symptoms panished with death in New England of dislocation or fracture, because of not so long ago. Dr. Rosse said that I the impression made upon their minds

the search for well authenticated in- the disease of tarantism, so called be- are mainly forms of hysteria more

antism ceased, and at the present day and again by the tarantula with no case in the hun serious effect whatever. In other not yet succeeded serious effect whatever. In other words, "expectant attention" being absent, the phenomena, which are no longer expected, do not accur. Dr. Woods believes hydrophobia in human beings to be a mimetic disease by expectant dread, and not by inoculation with the virus of a rabid animal. There can be no soundness, he says, in a disturbed mind or in a disturbed holy and he adds the question "Can be of it, after being bitten by a dog." body, and he adds the question, "Can we not hope for the time when hydrophobia also may be relegated to the limbo of abandoned vagaries?" IS THERE ANY TRUE HYDROPHOBIA ? ANSWER OF DR. DULLES.

So far, Dr. Woods has shown only that the subjective symptoms of lisease, and even of the dislocation of oints or the fracture of bones, are often induced by imagination, and the influence of expectant attention does, in fact, cause not only individnal suffering, but fearful epidemies. His conclusion is legitimate that the influence of imagination and expectant attention in a person who has been bitten by a dog and is in terror of hydrophobia may induce the spmptoms of that disease. All such cases must, of course, be clearly distinguished from genuine hydrophybia, if, indeed there is such a disease—that is to say, the rabies of the dog transferred to the human body. But is there, in fact, any hydrophobia that is really caused by the bite of a rabid dog?

Dr. Charles W. Dulles, an emi nent lecturer on the history of medicine at the University of Penn-sylvania, "has corresponded on this subject with most of the distinguished medical men in Europe." He has been repeatedly appointed by the medical societies of the State of Penns sylvania to investigate rables. Dr. Woods says that he has also "performed the almost incredible task of investigating, either personally or by correspondence with physicians or others in attendance, every case of hydrophobia reported in the newspapers of the United States for the past sixteen years" The result of this patient and conscientious work When a man or a the conclusion that "hydrophobia is extremely rare," but has also incline him to believe that "there is no such specific malady," since he has failed. "after sixteen years of investigation, to find a single case on record that can be conclusively proved to have resulted from the bite of a dog or any other cause." We need hardly observe that this fact, for a fact it is, reduces the probability that any supposed case of hydrophobia has been really caused by the bite of a dog almost to zero. And then this other conclusion of necessity follows. that the cases of supposed hydrophobia which do undoubtedly occur from time to time are almost, if not universally, caused by the influence of imagination excited by dread of a disease which probably has no existence. In view of these facts, is i not a duty to humanity to endeavor in every possible way to combat the superstition which dreads hydrophobia from every overheated dog in the dog days? Is it not time for the press to refuse to publish reports which tend to spread a disease which is not rables transferred to the human subject, but which is the spontaneous product of imagination, and is therefore called by at least one eminent medical man by the name of "newspaper hydrophobia?

OTHER MEDICAL OPINIONS.

So, at least, many eminent phy sicians believe, and among them the

Dr. Parvin, of Jefferson Medical College, says: "During an experience of forty-four years as a physician, I have not seen a case of hydrophobia, and I am of the opinion these have been no man can say. that if newspapers could be prevailed The statistics are confusing. Those of so called attacks of the disease able discrepancies. Pastur's own

enney) vania Hose for treat-question-

Dr. Mills, of the Dr. Mills, of the Chieffity of Pennsylvania, says that while he does not feel justified in saying that hydrophobia does not cast, he has taken special pains to dist a clear case in the human, subject, and has

of it, after being bitten by a dog, throws imaginative people into such omics of nervous excitement that they unconsciously reproduce its supposed symptoms." After twenty years practice in private and in many of the hospitals of Philadelphia, Dr. Hearn declares that he has "never seen a case of hydrophobia either in man or dog," nor does he know any other physician or surgeon who has. Other eminent physicians and surgoods agree; and their case seems to to be fairly made out that hydrohebia, in at least a vast majority of ses, is a disease of the imagination which simulates the characteristics scribed-and very inaccurately aseribed by popular superstition—to planted to the human subject.

THE PASTEUR TREATMENT. What, then, are we to think of the fearful accounts of hydrophobia which eem to have been increased rather than diminished since 1884, when Pasteur announced to the world that e had discovered an infallible method if curing that disease? On that subet we have had, and we have exressed in these columns, an opinion four own. Quite independently of Pasteur's method, which seems to us to be horribly cruel, we have never felt sure of the soundness of his sys-tem or of the reality of his benefits. Dr. Dulles has carefully investigated the facts. He has repeatedly reported them to medical societies, by which they have been widely published. In these reports he has challenged and demanded the most merciless investigation of his statements, but no reply as yet been forthcoming. He says: "No man has eared to proceed to a deliberate and detailed review of the equally effective. To say the least arguments by which I have, at vari- we should expect it to be so. It is ous times, endeavored to present to reasonable to believe that the profuse hers the views in regard to hydrobia, which I hold, and which are held by a large number of intelligent What are these views? In ories they are those, that the treatof M. Pasteur is so far from having liminished the number of deaths from alleged hydrephobia that they have actually increased since the date of his supposed discovery. Says Dr. Dulles: "The year before he made that boast there were four deaths from evdrophobia in Paris (the department of the Seine:) the year after, when he had practiced his preventive method for six months, the deaths from the dangers of the Pasteur treatment. hydropholda leaped at once from four to twenty-two. In 1886 the number fell to three again in Paris, but I have a list of twenty-three persons who died after treatment by Pasteur savages, the round world over, are himself in that year. In 1887 the deaths in Paris rose to nine! in 1888 o nineteen. These oscilliations indicate that Pasteur's method is no more preventive of hydrophobia than s the method which he declared in 1884 would eradicate rabies in dogs.

On the contrary, Pasteur's method has undoubtedly increased the numer of deaths from hydrophobia." liminution in the number of deaths from hydrophobia in any part of the world, and at the same time there has been added to these a large num. ber of deaths due to inaculation of the virus of what ought to be called 'Pasteur's disease.' Just how many statistics, published in the Annales de l'Institut Pasieur for March of

most enthusstic supporter of Pesteur, reported to the Academie de Medecine on June 21, 1892, ninety-eight cases is only six years, which is just twenty-six cases more than Pasteur himself reported for eight years. * The same manipulation may

be found in the reports for other years." Dr. Dulles attributes the faith in the Pasteur method, which has so widely extended among medical men, to the "stupendous fallacy that Pasteur has saved from death by hydrophobia during the last eight years nearly 15,000 persons, who are in the report spoken of as 'cured.' Of this number he is supposed to have 'cured' about 1,400 Frenchmen in the year 1893-more persons than have died from hydrophobia in the United States in a century!" Dr. Dulles believes that the Pasteur method has done nothing whatever to diminish hydrophobia, but rather, on the contrary, that it has done much to increase the number of cases of simulated hydrophobia, and still further, that it has communicated to a large number of persons a purely artificial disease by the injection of diseased animal matter into their veins. In this opinion Dr. Dulles may be in error, but if he is, it is incumbent upon the disciples of Pasteur to show his error. Until they shall do so, we do not see how nor why any one should be expected to regard the Pasteur method with anything but grave apprehension.

THE BUISSON CURE BY VAPOR BATHS.

Another method of cure has recently come into much favor with the medical faculty in general. It is called the Buisson cure. It is very simple, and it has this great merit, at least, that if it does no good, it can do no harm. It consists simply of a hot vapor bath, repeated more or less frequently, M. Buission recommending at least seven baths as desirable, if not essential, to a complete cure. The theory is that the poisonous matter absorbed into the system from the bite of a rabid dog is completely excreted by these baths. Dr. Buisson himself was bitten by a baths and was never attracked by hydrophobia. In other cases of persons who had had a similar misfortune Dr. Buisson has followed the same treatment with invariable success. In England and elsewhere, particularly of late years, the same treatment has been applied and appears to have been perspiration caused by a vapor bath should completely excrete the poison ous element lodged in the patient by the teeth of the dog. Repeated baths would, of course, be oven more effective in this way than a single bath. The effect upon the patient's nervous system might also be reasonably expected to be soothing and quieting. The hope and belief of the effectiveness of the remedy would banish that expectant attention which appears to be the real cause of the hysterical affection known by the name of hydrophebia. At all events it is free from and it may help to hasten the time when the superstition of hydrophobia shall cease to effect civilized mankind. who alone are subject to it, while exempt.

CONCLUSION.

We have said, and we repeat, that hydrophobia is one of the rarest of diseases, and that when it appears to be developed, we believe, it in the vast majority of cases, to be a simulated disease produced by a morbid imagination. We do not go so far as to assert that it is never caused by the But that is not the worst. Dr. Dulles | bite of a rabid animal, and therefore continues; "I have indicated what we would advise that all proper care has taken place in France, and can should be taken to destroy, without assure you that there has been no delay, all animals that are affected with rabies, Yet, here again, we must recall the fact that rabies itself is one of the ratest of all the diseases with which dogs and other animals are affected. When we hear the ery of "mad dog!" the chances are millions to one that the dog is not mad: it is the people who are mad with terror. When we read newspaper reports of the appearance of a mad dog here are that the chances are .chormously against the truth of the story. Yet there is such a disease as rables, and since there is no care for it but

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